

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: November 14, 2013

**SUBJECT: Policy recommendations from the
Gang Issues Standing Committee for
Addressing Assembly Bill 526**

AGENDA ITEM: C

ACTION: X

INFORMATION:

RESOURCE PERSON: Oscar E. Villegas

Summary:

At the September 12, 2013 meeting of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) staff presented the Gang Issues Standing Committee's recommendations for addressing the requirements of Assembly Bill 526. The presentation was intended to provide the Board with an initial opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations. Today's agenda item is seeking adoption of the recommendations.

Background:

Earlier this year the Board's Gang Issues Standing Committee was tasked with the responsibility for developing recommendations for addressing the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 526 (Ch. 850, Statutes of 2012). AB 526, which was signed by Governor Brown last year, requires the BSCC to:

- move towards consolidating the grant application processes for delinquency, intervention and prevention funds for grant programs with the same or similar program purpose,
- incentivize comprehensive regional partnerships, and
- by January 1, 2014, the BSCC must develop funding allocation policies that ensure that within three years no less than 70 percent of funding for "gang and youth violence suppression, intervention, and prevention programs and strategies is used in programs that utilize promising and proven evidence-based principles and practices."

In March of this year the Board established a Gang Issues Standing Committee chaired by Board Member Maggard. One of the tasks assigned to this committee was to draft recommendations for the Board which address the requirements of AB 526. The committee met for the first time in May 2013, and again in August 2013 where it unanimously agreed that by adopting the following language the BSCC could address the more time sensitive issue of the bill by developing funding allocation policies by January 1, 2014. The resulting policy recommendations will set the course for BSCC to ensure that 70 percent of the grant funding for "gang and youth violence suppression, intervention, and prevention programs and strategies is used in programs that utilize promising and proven evidence-based principles and practices."

In summary, the committee unanimously agreed to present the following two recommendations:

1. **The BSCC will clearly define “evidence-based programs, practices and strategies.”**
Clear definitions and specific examples will help to distinguish the difference between programs, practices and strategies. This will also help BSCC and the recipient of these funds ensure consistent and uniform application.
2. **The BSCC will clearly identify which of its grant funding streams will be included when determining the 70 percent threshold.** *Since the legislation specifically excludes the two largest funding sources, the Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds from consideration, it is recommended that the graphic below be used for identifying the remaining grant programs that will be included when measuring the 70 percent threshold:*

BSCC Grant Funding Streams	FY 2013/14 Amount	Included in 70% (Yes/No)
California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP)	\$9.2 mil.	Yes
Proud Parenting	\$835,000	Yes
Title II Block Grant	\$5.8 mil.	Yes*
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)	\$4.9 mil.	Yes*
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)	\$18.5 mil.	To be determined
Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)	\$84 mil.	No – excluded per AB 526
Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)	\$93 mil.	No – excluded per AB 526
		* Only funds allocated for direct services, not system improvement.

The above recommendations were also shared with the BSCC’s Juvenile Justice Standing Committee and the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

In support of this agenda item, staff has begun exploring the possibility of addressing the requirements of AB 526 within the larger context of BSCC’s statutory requirements, as well as our recently adopted strategic plan. The BSCC is responsible for promoting the use of evidence-based programs but none of these mandates include specific thresholds for the percent or timelines like AB 526. As a result, the BSCC has begun working with Dr. Ed Latessa from the University of Cincinnati, an expert in evidence-based correctional practices, to explore ways to address the requirements of AB 526 and implement a plan to sustain our efforts to promote evidence-based programs, provide technical assistance, and develop and maintaining a resource

clearinghouse. Staff has been working with Dr. Latessa to ensure that today's recommendations align with a broader approach to support BSCC's efforts to ensure that the 70 percent EBP threshold is met in the next three years. Staff believes that Dr. Latessa's expertise and guidance in developing this larger, more comprehensive implementation plan will support the path needed to ensure compliance with AB 526 and help accomplish other BSCC objectives related to promoting evidence-based programs and practices, technical assistance, a statewide resource clearinghouse, etc. It is staff's intent to include regular updates to the Board on the status of implementation.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

Staff is seeking approval of the recommendations provided by the Board's Gang Issues Standing Committee.